THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1871.

The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

Proceedings in Congress Yesterday.

The Minority Report on the McGarrahan Claim Adopted in the House.

Important Action of the House Committee on the Southern Pacific Railroad Bill.

The House Election Bill Reported in the Senate.

The Cotton Tax Test Case---A Tie in the Supreme Court.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 18.—The action of the House, to-day, in substituting the minority report of the Judiciary Committee for the majority report, on the McGarrahan claim, in the general mélée of conversation to-night in political circles. The friends of McGarrahan consider he has won a great victory over the New York Company, and confidently expect that he will be eventually put in possession of the long-disputed property. Address of McGarrahan will be completed in a few days, and delivered by the advocate of the minority report, yet it is claimed that it will be forwarded to the country as having the record resigned to the condition it was in before there was any institution thereof. All pretense of friends of McGarrahan voted in favor of the minority report.

BILL TO PREVENT FRAUDULENT PRACTICES.

The bill introduced in the House, this morning, by Mr. VanWyck to prevent fraudulent practices, provides that any person pleading or depositing in a Post Office, or causing to be so pleaded or deposited, or who shall have in his possession, with intent to circulate, any pleading, handbill, or advertisement, offering, or purporting to offer for sale, or as a gift, any false, forged, or counterfeit Treasury notes, bonds, coupons, stamps, or any facsimile of such, shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment for a term not less than one nor more than three years, and by fine of not less than $10 or more than $5,000.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr. HOOPER, of Ohio, introduced a resolution in the House, to-day, to authorize the printing of 250,000 extra copies of the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, one-third of them for the use of the Senate, and 25,000 for the Commissioner of Agriculture.

REMOVAL TO RETINUE'S FEMALE SCHOOL.

The Legislature passed a resolution to-day to Congress a memorial asking the extinguishment of Indian titles to lands in that State which have been settled and improved by white men, but which have been reserved for the exclusive use of the Indians. This is the old game of squatting on any valuable land owned by the Indians, and then asking the government to steal it for them.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD BILL.

There has been a general suspension of all business here to-day, in consequence of the carnival. So far as the exercise of the muscles are concerned, the impression is that they were a great failure; but as regards the mental exhilaration of the city was out of doors, the weather being as mild as in May. Being Pennsylvania avenue, it was the scene from the Capitol to the Treasury Department. About twenty thousand people stood in solid mass, body-to-body, on each side of the avenue, and one of the much-vaunted programme of races of fast horses, mounted by jockeys, never ever came off. The processions; but the fulfilment failed to come up to the promise. Occasionally a handsome team would dash up and down the avenue at speed; but what more than average speed, and at occasional intervals, was not up to it by a good deal, driven by boys; then a fire-engine, and by dozens, and driven by a company of firemen, would parade, and that was all. One vehicle only would gracefully recline. This was about all that met the watchful eyes of expectant thousands who stood all day long to observe the unfolding of the carnival programme. This evening the streets of the city redeem their deficiencies severe pleasure. A spectacle which is both grand and beautiful. From the Treasury Department to the Capitol, and across to a number of light, varied with Chinese lanterns, fireworks, and brilliant private illumination. Beside at least 40,000 people are concentrated in the space between Willard's Hotel and the Capitol building. To-morrow, however, will be a "grand gala day for many visitors from abroad, and now is the time to understand that the attractions there will atone for the disappointments of to-day. Among the chief features announced is a balloon ascension and tournament. One of the features of the latter is a procession of knights, the Governor of the District of Columbia, the Mayor of the capital mount, who is to be gotten up regardless of expense, while the Senate will devote a large portion of the day to the ceremonies. As a matter of truth, however, it must be stated that the people from abroad do not as yet consider that the carnival is a success, from the fact that they have in any wise been reimbursed for the disappointment they have been put to by reason of over crowded hotels.

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE COTTON TAX.

In the Supreme Court, to-day, Mr. Justice Nelson announced that the court was equally divided in the case of Farrington vs. Saunders, involving the constitutionality of the cotton tax. Judgment being in favor of the government, is therefore affirmed, but no binding decision is rendered. The court adjourned over to Wednesday next.

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION BILL.

After passing through the Senate, the bill relative to print extra copies of the report of the Committee on Ordnance, Messrs. RICHARDSON, HAZARD and DAVIS were appointed conferees on the Legislative appropriation bill. Mr. RICHARDSON moved to concur in the amendment reported from the Committee on Appropriations, striking out the clause relative to the purchase of the Washington Arsenal grounds.

Mr. POWLER read a lengthy speech lately in the Senate, in opposition to the policy pursued by the Administration in the case of the five new Senators. Mr. HOLMAN followed in the defense of the Administration in further measures to put an end to the Ku-Klux outrages, and to enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution. The bill was then passed by a vote of 110 to 71.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD BILL.

The House Committee on Pacific Railroads have instructed Mr. Wheeler, Chairman, to report on the Senate Southern Pacific Railroad bill to-morrow without recommendation, or with an adverse report, as it may be deemed best by the majority of the committee.

BILL TO REGULATE THE COMMISSION.

Mr. STOCKTON, in explanation of the issue between himself and said Commissioner was to make a beautiful park and drive, of which the nation would be proud. He (Stockton) had proposed to lease a railway that was supposed to make it the cheapest in the world. The Commissioner had expended $50,000 before a rail was laid, and in addition, of what was done there was only one mile.

ADJOURNMENT.

After further announcements, and an agreement to take up Mr. SAWYER'S bill, to-morrow, the Senate, at 5 o'clock, after a short executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Resolutions were introduced and appropriately referred.

By Mr. CLARK (Kansas)—A memorial of the Kansas Legislature for the immediate removal of the national capital to the Valley of the Mississippi.

By Mr. VAN TRUMP—In relation to the non-payment by the New York Central Railroad Company of the tax of 3 per cent upon the gross receipts, reciting the facts in the case, and the discussion which has already taken place in the Senate and in the public mind as to the equal, honest and legal construction of the law of 1864, and requesting the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to collect the tax due from the company. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERS—Instructing the Committee on Public Lands to report a bill to grant to the Territory of Colorado the right of way for railroads, canals, and ditches over the public lands in the mountains of said Territory, and for the protection of timber for mining purposes. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

By Mr. BUTLER (Mass.)—Authorizing the President to appoint a commission of three persons to investigate the frauds alleged to have been committed in the collection of the revenue in the Southern States, and to report to the next session of Congress. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1871.

THE SAN DOMINGO COMMISSION.

Seldom has the telegraph brought more ominous news than flashed over the wires on our early busy yesterday morning, of the safe arrival of the Tennessee at the Bay of Samana, without accident, serious delay, or even the illness of a single person on board. The fear that gloomy tidings, or some at all, awaited us had become so general that the intelligence was received with genuine thrill of relief. The report of our special correspondent elsewhere shows that the commission is industriously preparing its work, and that it intends to reject facts and observation rather than its own conclusions on the question of annexation. Thus far it appears that government officers will be acquitted of all corrupt interest in the profits of annexation, though two private companies are stumbling largely in it. No doubt revealed that the naval vessels of the United States in those waters have for a year past been under instructions from the commander of the squadron to protect Baez from his enemies, should he need such protection.

Whether Baez's representation of the feeling of the majority of the Dominicans in favor of annexation is true, is a point upon which the Commissioners will hardly arrive at a conclusion until they have made a tour of the interior. They are also mostly inquiring whether the people will accept easily our Internal Revenue law, though we fail to see why, as that law imposes no tax on either rags, bone, or constabulary, which are just now the principal products of the island. They are also personally inquiring to see where forts can be built, and find that the expense of fortifying Samana will absorb equal sum of the appropriations around New York. The grandeur of the mountains seems to have impressed the commissioners favorably with Samana and Colorado; but first-class mountain scenery is an investment much more in favor among painters and panthers than among dealers in real estate or the adjacent cities. Nevertheless, there is much the best important and valuable of the case.

HOW TO RAISE REVENUE.

No person can read the annual report of Mr. Wells upon taxation without being impressed with the number of the useless taxes which are imposed, and the prevailing waste in the collection and expenditure of revenue. The fact is, we have no system of taxation in this country. We have a thirty-seven States government, 300 municipal corporations, and the General Government, all engaged in the business of levying and collecting taxes, not upon any general plan of economical revenue, but as the law-lord has decided from time to time, and for a specific purpose, permanent or temporary, wise or foolish. We have been accustomed to commiserate the condition of the tax-oppressed nations of Europe, where the substance of the people is wrung from them in support of standing armies, royalty and nobility, and classes clothed with special privileges. But, accustomed with the taxes paid in England, France, Turkey, Spain, or Prussia, the taxation of the United States and municipalities in this country is by far the most oppressive and exacting. The British Government collected last year $122,000,000 from a tariff of imports. That has been the average income from that source for many years. France has had a liberal system of duty equal to the surplus; but these reflections in the rate increase the revenue from other objects, so that, though there is an annual reduction of the rate of tax, the revenue suffers no loss. The Government of Spain has been gradually reduced until it now embraces articles on less than twenty-five articles. We give a table showing the articles, with the rate of tax in England and the rate of tax on the same articles in the United States, and the amount of revenue from each of those articles collected in the United States last year:

Articles.	British Duty.	U. S. Duty.	Revenue.
Almonds, paste, &c.	30.00	30.00	$ 3,287
Brandy, cordials, &c.	7.10	2.50	1,276,470
Playing cards, pack	6.6½	4.25 pc	2,613
Tea	6.66	10.00	6,569,447
Tobacco, manufactured	3.00	1.00	1,000,000
Wines, Champagne	4.00	1.00	1,000,000
Wines, Madeira	4.00	1.00	1,000,000
Wines, Port	4.00	1.00	1,000,000
Wines, Sherry	4.00	1.00	1,000,000
Wines, Still	4.00	1.00	1,000,000
Wines, Sparkling	4.00	1.00	1,000,000
Wines, Other	4.00	1.00	1,000,000
Coffee, lb.	0.66	0.10	3,199,000
Cocoa, lb.	0.66	0.10	19,284,421
Currants, lb.	0.66	0.10	1,000,000
Dates, lb.	0.66	0.10	16,000,000
Figs, lb.	0.66	0.10 pc	6,442
Plums, lb.	0.66	0.10	1,000,000
Raisins, lb.	0.66	0.10	1,000,000
Salt, bush.	0.37	0.20 pc	41,754.00
Pepper, lb.	0.66	0.10	1,000,000
Pimento, lb.	0.66	0.10	1,000,000
Spices, lb.	0.66	0.10	1,000,000
Sugar, lb.	0.66	0.10	39,440,000
Molasses, gal.	0.11	0.05	1,778,000
Syrup, gal.	0.22	0.05	1,778,000
Tobacco, manufactured	3.00	0.35	34,000,000
Tobacco, cigars, lb.	3.00	0.35	4,682,667.00
Tobacco, snuff, lb.	3.00	0.35	1,000,000.00
Tobacco, leaf, lb.	0.66	0.35	7,000,000.00
Vinegar, gal.	0.22	0.05	1,778,000
Oil, olive, gal.	0.66	0.10	4,000,000
Oil, other, gal.	0.22	0.05	4,000,000
Total			$131,314,60

The total taxes derived by the United States from these eighteen articles (four of which are not being imported in this country) for the year 1869-70 was $78,026,720. The taxes collected by the United States amounted to $191,514,000, of which $70,000,000 was derived from the waste of the government, and which, in addition to the receipts from internal revenue, made an aggregate surplus of $105,000,000. The fact, therefore, ought to have been one to the standard of $127,000,000, which is all that is needed from that source. The government receives from the same articles which are taxed in the English tariff three-fifths of all the revenue needed from imports. The tax collected from these is purely revenue, and less the cost of collection, is all paid into the treasury. Our chief embarrassment is the high tariff on articles of prime necessity and the raw material of industry. Upon all these the people pay a tax ranging from 40 to 80 per cent, which is laid partly in ignorance and partly in the fraudulent interest of a few favored persons. The following reverses would have been collected, if the duties were reduced from the present to the rates stated:

Articles.	Duty per cent.	Duty reduced to	Revenue.
Sugar, &c.	40	10	$ 39,440,000
Molasses	40	10	1,778,000
Coffee	40	10	19,284,421
Tea	50	10	6,569,447
Cocoa	40	10	1,000,000
Fruits	40	10	1,000,000
Spices	40	10	1,000,000
Salt	40	10	1,000,000
Pepper	40	10	1,000,000
Pimento	40	10	1,000,000
Vinegar	40	10	1,778,000
Wines	40	10	1,000,000
Brandy, cordials, &c.	40	10	1,276,470
Tobacco, manufactured	40	10	1,000,000
Tobacco, cigars	40	10	4,682,667.00
Tobacco, snuff	40	10	1,000,000.00
Tobacco, leaf	40	10	7,000,000.00
Oil, olive	40	10	4,000,000
Oil, other	40	10	4,000,000
Total			$ 105,314,60

Thus we have a saving of $105,000,000 in the waste of the Government, and a reduction of the tax on other articles of $105,000,000, making a total reduction of $210,000,000. This would leave a surplus of $127,000,000, which is all that is needed from that source. The Government receives from the same articles which are taxed in the English tariff three-fifths of all the revenue needed from imports. The tax collected from these is purely revenue, less the cost of collection, is all paid into the treasury. Our chief embarrassment is the high tariff on articles of prime necessity and the raw material of industry. Upon all these the people pay a tax ranging from 40 to 80 per cent, which is laid partly in ignorance and partly in the fraudulent interest of a few favored persons. The following reverses would have been collected, if the duties were reduced from the present to the rates stated:

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Tobacco, cigars	40	10	4,682,667.00
Tobacco, snuff	40	10	1,000,000.00
Tobacco, leaf	40	10	7,000,000.00
Oil, olive	40	10	4,000,000
Oil, other	40	10	4,000,000
Total			$

COMMON COUNCIL.

Petition that the Lake Front May Be Used as Base Ball Grounds.

The City's Vested Lien on the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

A Special Committee to Look After the South Park Commissioners.

A regular meeting of the COMMON COUNCIL was held last evening, at which there was present the President, C. C. P. Holden, Esq., and Messrs. Kaczkowski, Orth, Hoyne, Cullerton, Ahrens, Dagge, Tracey, Schmitz, Butterfield, Hickey, Bailey, Sam. Powell, Blackman, Wicek, Wahl, Gindele, Kiolbassa, Gill, Medill, McGrath, Bonner, Tyler, Schmidt, Schoen, Schaffner, Carney, McKinney, McCauley, Carse, Brown, Hansen.

PETITIONS

were presented as follows:

For water service pipe on Boyne street, by Tyler and Livingston Streets.

Of Arrathoon Burf, for compensation for damages caused by breaking up his pavement in consequence of a defective sidewalk on West Chicago avenue.

A petition for the opening of the north end of Dearborn street, between 12 and 13, Clinton, be established. Referred.

Of Jeremiah Murphy and others, for the erection of a fire-proof building on the north side of Madison street, between Halsted and Green. Referred.

Of Mrs. Cotton's benefit, last evening was the first night of a week's engagement of the Combination. Next week Miss Kate Fisher will appear in the drama of "Lucille," and the week following Miss Cotton will appear in her favorite character of Pauline, in "Lady of Lyons." Miss Kate Fisher is a young lady of great promise, and will undoubtedly draw a full house.

Mrs. Hanley's benefit, last evening, was attended by a large audience, who were delighted with the performance. The bill for this evening is a very attractive one, and should draw a full house.

Mr. Maddern, retiring superintendent of the Chicago Gas Light and Coke Company, appeared before the Committee on Gas, and stated that he would not make further application for the position of superintendent, and would therefore withdraw his petition for the reduction of the price of gas

FOREIGN.

Speech of President Thiers in the Constituent Assembly.

The Peace Question.

The Assembly to Suspend its Sittings During the Negotiations.

Germany and Italy to be Separated from France by Russian Territory.

FRANCE.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

BORDEAUX, Feb. 19.—In the National Assembly to-day, Thiers delivered a speech in his capacity of Chief Executive of the French Republic. He said upon the chamber and suffering which had been caused by the war and the German invasion, and on the necessity of peace. "Never-theless," said Thiers, "the terms of peace will consequently consist with the honor and interest of France. The task of the administration is to pacify and reorganize the country, restore credit, and reorganize labor. When this is effected the country itself will decide its destiny."

The Assembly subsequently adopted the proposition made by the government, to appoint a committee of fifteen Deputies to Paris to act as mediator between the negotiators and Assembly.

Many preparations are consequently on foot to-day during the negotiations.

Thiers, Picard, and Favre left for Paris this evening.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

(Special Cable to the New York Herald.)

VERSAILLES, Feb. 19.—Delegates have been in session in the Rothschild's office on the question of peace. The cession of Nice and the annexation of Savoy to France are understood. Many claims France are under discussion. France will have to separate from Germany by the Germans annexing Alsace, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, and by a newly acquired territory and fortresses. Almost all the troops from her civil duty, leaving but a territory marine will obstacles to military occupation. The great object of Germany is to separate France from Italy, leaving her isolated. Bismarck is willing to renounce Metz in exchange of its disarmament, but Moltke is opposed to yielding the fortress as a German military point. Monaco also insists upon restoration of territory including Nice, as a condition of peace. Bismarck is unwilling to listen to the proposition. The cession of Nice to the Imperial Crown is considered by many as a necessity to the future peace of Europe. It will then be almost impossible for Italy to attack France. The German troops will not evacuate Paris until the last franc of the indemnity is paid. The Germans refuse to allow the Assembly to meet at Paris, and insist upon its meeting at Versailles